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Ministry of Advanced Education

NEW P.E. AND COACHING DEGREE FOR DOUGLAS COLLEGE

NEW WESTMINSTER – A new bachelor of physical education and coaching degree has been approved for Douglas College, building on the success of existing sport science, coaching and physical education instruction diplomas, Advanced Education Minister Murray Coell announced today.

"This government is committed to leading the way in healthy living and physical fitness," said Coell. "By training more coaches to work with young people, we will be well on our way to meeting that goal."

The new program will provide students with the knowledge and skills they need to teach and coach in the public school system or to work in the coaching field.

"As the first province to create an independent board that reviews all new degree programs for both public and private institutions, we are ensuring quality in our post-secondary system," said Coell. "Students know that any new degree program offered at our post-secondary institutions will live up to the high standards people have come to expect when they study in B.C."

Students will be required to complete fieldwork placements and participate in a visiting program where students lead activities with school-aged children brought to the college by their classroom teachers.

"Douglas College is establishing itself as a first-choice institution," said Douglas College president Susan Witter. "We are giving students the ability to start, continue and finish their education at Douglas College. By building our degree program on the strength of our current diploma programs, we are providing students the education they need to excel in their field of choice.

Since 2003, more than 120 undergraduate and graduate degrees have been approved, helping B.C. improve its competitiveness and productivity through education and skills training, part of government's Pacific Leadership Agenda.

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